

## From the Editor

THE cover of this month's **Soldiers** features PFC Joseph P. Dwyer of the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, carrying an injured Iraqi boy to safety. For more combat photos, don't miss our special "Images of War" section — it captures the spirit of Operation Iraqi Freedom while showcasing the soldiers of America's Army.

With millions of rounds of ordnance expended in the war on terrorism, Army ammunition plants are running in high gear. For an inside look at how some of this ordnance is manufactured, join SSG Alberto Betancourt for a tour of Virginia's Radford Army Ammunition Plant in "Ammo Makers."

The war on terrorism joins the list of wars in which millions of Americans have given their lives for liberty and democracy. In "A Time to Honor" we give you a history of the day we set aside to honor these Americans, Memorial Day, along with a timeline of our nation's greatest conflicts and the numbers of those who were killed and wounded in each.

Finally, in "With Care and Respect," Heike Hasenauer shows us how our Army takes care of our comrades in arms who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

*John C. Suttle*

## To the Troops...

*SINCE the outbreak of war with the regime of Saddam Hussein, **Soldiers** has received many letters and e-mails from people wishing to voice their support for, and thanks to, the troops. Over the next few issues we'll be sharing some of these messages of support with you, our readers.*

THERE are no words to truly show the depth of our appreciation to the men and women in the armed services of the United States, and of her allies.

Every step you take will be intertwined with the honor of every soldier who has gone before you.

We know you are in a very difficult place in your lives. Please know you are not there alone. Even those of you who think you have no family, there are millions of Americans who hold you close in their thoughts and hearts.

You are loved by all of us, for placing yourselves in harm's way to protect your families and the families of millions of Americans whom you've never met.

You are the guardians of our future. Without your courage and bravery, our future generations may not know the freedom you are now protecting.

Determination, endurance and fortitude will bring you home to the warm embrace of all who love you. We will celebrate your gallantry, and honor your valor.

*M. Gonzales Kypfer  
via e-mail*

WE just wanted to send a note to our troops letting them know that there are a lot of people at home that support them! They are risking their lives for a just cause and I wish there was more I could do to show my support, but all I can do is wish them well and hope they kick ass over there and come home soon! Our prayers will be with them, and we will continue to support them at home. Take care and be as safe as you can.

*Craig and Jenni Wootton  
Findlay, Ohio*

THIS is just a short note to say thanks for all your efforts and sacrifices. So many of our citizens do not realize that freedom is not free. Freedom is paid for by young men and women like yourselves from generation to generation.

Again, please accept my thanks and gratitude for your bravery and dedication to our country and everything it stands for. My flag will fly till you come home. May God bless you all!

*Richard Vernon  
via e-mail*

## Cool Map

I WOULD like to thank the staff at **Soldiers** for the very useful world map/Iraq situation map in the March edition.

Fort Riley is currently handling activated National Guard and Army Reserve units, and they all wanted the map — so much, in fact, that someone stole mine!

*Carol Hale  
via e-mail*

*THANKS for the kind words ... and we've put a replacement copy in the mail to you!*

## ADA on the Move

IN your March article "School for the Air Defense" you said that "Company D trains the soldiers who drive the vehicles used by ADA units." That is incorrect.

Co. D of the 1st Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, at Fort Bliss, Texas, is the only company outside of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., that proudly trains more than 750 AIT soldiers annually in primary MOS 88M (Motor Transport Operators) assigned to combat arms, combat service and combat service support for the active Army, National Guard and Army Reserve.

We'd like for everyone to know that the Transportation Corps. is well represented at Fort Bliss, Texas.

*1SG George Quiñones Jr.  
Fort Bliss, Texas*

## SDAP, Because...

BEING a career counselor, and having been a recruiter for many years, let me see if I can answer the question posed in the anonymous March letter to

the editor titled "Why SDAP?"

For starters, recruiters have no immediate access to a commissary, post exchange or base laundry; get no base housing; and work very long hours (not that we all don't work long hours).

Without computation of costs, my guess is that a family of four would use the \$220.00 extra a month SDAP provides solely on food.

*SFC Robert Walters  
Via e-mail*

IN your the March Feedback section a sergeant who was too timid to give his name took issue with career counselors getting SDAP.

I am a ranger tab and combat-patch wearing former member of the 82nd Airborne Division. I have been a recruiter and am now a career counselor, and I have never been more challenged by any

Army job than now. Recruiting SDAP is \$375 a month — I took a pay cut to do this job and have three times as much to do.

My advice to the letter writer is to try performing either of these two special duties before passing judgment on this very demanding and fulfilling mission the Army has given us.

And as for the writer's final question ("Is the job really that demanding?") the answer is: Yes, it is. Do you understand now?

*SFC Cody Oathout  
Fort Sam Houston, Texas*

## No Clearance Required

I JUST wanted to make a quick comment on a "Feed-back" letter in the February edition in which SSG Darlene J. Hill said that the personnel services NCOs in each unit are

required to have a security clearance.

Personnel service NCOs can be either MOS 75B or 75H, and neither requires a security clearance, as outlined in Chapter 10 of Department of the Army Pamphlet 611-21.

*SFC Renee Welde  
via e-mail*

## Service Flags, Again

Your July 2002 article about service flags was excellent. In the March 2003 issue a Feedback comment stated that the service flags cannot be ordered from the manufacturer. I beg to differ.

Approximately two months ago I went to [www.service-flags.com](http://www.service-flags.com) and purchased a

flag set for myself and my mother (my son and I are both Army Reservists) and received the flags in a matter of a few days.

*Debra Harris  
via e-mail*

## Great Job

THE staff members at Soldier's magazine continue to do a great job. I remember looking forward to each issue when I was stationed in Germany in the late 1970s.

I continue to look forward to the issues circulating around our office, even though I've been retired now for seven years.

*Robert S. Ryczak  
via e-mail*

**Soldiers** is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**, or e-mail: [soldiers@belvoir.army.mil](mailto:soldiers@belvoir.army.mil).



Order Processing Code:

\* 5905

☐ YES, please send \_\_\_\_\_ subscriptions to: **Soldiers**

The total cost of my order is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name or title \_\_\_\_\_ (Please type or print)

Company name \_\_\_\_\_ Room, floor, suite \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone including area code \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase order number (optional) \_\_\_\_\_



**Credit card orders are welcome!**

Fax your orders (202) 512-2250

Phone your orders (202) 512-1800

(SOL) at \$38 each (\$53.20 foreign) per year.

Price includes regular shipping & handling and is subject to change.

### Check method of payment:

☐ Check payable to: Superintendent of Documents

☐ GPO Deposit Account ☐

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

☐

(expiration date)

☐

Authorizing signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Superintendent of Documents, PO Box 371954, Pittsburgh PA 15250-7954

**Important: Please include this completed order form with your remittance.**

**Thank you for your order!**

